Newly fenced areas along Indo-Bangladesh Border

*291. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) out of total Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB) how much length is newly fenced including border road construction, State-wise;

(b) how long will it take to complete newly fenced project;

(c) the present status of IBB road and fencing implemented by the Central Government;

(d) whether many complaints have been made about the self-centred activities of National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) which has been entrusted the works of border fencing and border road construction;

(e) if so, the action taken thereon;

(f) whether it is a fact that the riverine border is not totally safe; and

(g) how the reverine border is managed or checked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) Out of 4096.70 km. comprising the Indo-Bangladesh Border, new fencing and road for 2429.50 km. and 797 km. respectively has been undertaken under Phase-II. This is in addition to 857 km. of fencing and 2866 km. of roads already constructed under Phase-I.

The state wise length sanctioned and completed in respect of fencing and road as on 31.01.2008 under Phase-II are as below:—

(Length in Km.)

Name of the State	Fencing Sanctioned	Fencing Completed	Road Sanctioned	Road Completed
West Bengal	1021.00	676.65	0.00	0.00
Assam	71.50	51.42	77.50	63.23
Mizoram	400.00	118.75	246.50	145.23
Meghalaya	201.00	180.19	204.00	200.85
Tripura	856.00	669.14	269.00	210.64
TOTAL	**2429.50**	**1696.15**	**797.00**	**619.95**

The work originally scheduled to be completed by March, 2007 is now being re-scheduled to be completed by 2008-09. Shortfalls are attributable to difficulties due to presence of habitation within 150 yards from the international border, delay in land acquisition in some areas and adverse topographical conditions. An additional stretch of 120 kms. in Tripura, which was earlier found to be non-feasible, has also been sanctioned for fencing in the year 2006.

(d) and (e) Some complaints have been received about the working of National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) in regard to non-consultation with the district administration in respect of fixing of alignments. As per Memorandum of Understanding

executed between Ministry of Home Affairs and executing agencies, the agencies are required to execute the work in consultation with the district administration concerned and the Border Security Force. An advisory has been issued to all the agencies to follow the terms of agreement. To ensure the quality of work, a mechanism of third party inspection of works has been put in place.

(f) and (g) Since riverine areas, due to difficulties in terrain and topographical conditions, are not always feasible to fence, the following measures are being taken to manage them:—

(i) Round the clock surveillance and domination by patrolling the area with water crafts, both during day and night.

(ii) Three floating Border-Out-Posts (BOPs), acquired by the Border Security Force, are deployed in riverine segments for effective domination.

(iii) BOPs established on main land also keep a check on any illegal crossing from riverine areas.

Decline in industrial growth in the country

*292. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that industrial growth in the country has declined significantly in 2007 as compared to the year 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) how far the decline in industrial growth is due to the appreciation of the rupee *vis-à-vis* the US dollar; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase industrial growth?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The industrial growth rate, measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production, moderated to 8.7% during April-January 2007-08 as against 11.2% during the corresponding period of previous year. The sector wise growth rates are given in the table below:

Growth rate (in %)

Period	2005-06	2006-07	2006-07 (Apr-Jan)	2007-08 (Apr-Jan)
Mining	1.0	5.4	4.8	4.6
Manufacturing	9.1	12.5	12.1	9.2
Electricity	5.2	7.2	7.6	6.3
Overall Industry	8.2	11.6	11.2	8.7

Source: Central Statistical Organisation

The slowdown during April-January 2007-08 is observed, especially, in Textiles, Metals & Minerals, Machinery & Equipments and Transport Equipments. The slowdown isattributed to a combination of factors such as, rise in interest rates, rupee appreciation etc.